

# Concerning Educational Affairs on Hawaii

From The Hilo Tribune, Nov. 7th. Issue.

Owing to complaints charging into matters which do not concern the department of public instruction with favoritism, with reckless-wasting of extravagant salaries on Superintendent Pope's friends, on imported malihinis and on such employees of the department who can do the superintendent the most good politically, Chairman Jim Lewis of the board of supervisors has determined to tackle the department in an effort to uncover such rottenness as exists. Enough has already been found to convince him, and all others who have taken up the matter, that the present administration of the department presents about the most scandalous condition which long-suffering taxpayers have as yet had to deal with for many a year.

Lewis explains that he did not enter into the proposition with an idea of fighting or hampering the department of public instruction in the least. He had, however, during his recent trip of inspection of the various school houses on this island, had a number of complaints and grievances presented to him by various teachers and others who had observed existing conditions. Furthermore, the department had always put up a great complaint about the paucity of its funds, whenever financial questions arose between it and the supervisors. All this whetted Lewis' appetite to know what really became of the funds in the education department, and particularly whether the complaints made to him by the various teachers were at all based upon fact.

So Lewis wrote to Superintendent Pope, asking for information. That he was not altogether butting

him is plain from the fact that under the act passed by the last legislature to provide for the maintenance of public schools the chairman of the boards of supervisors of the four counties, together with the secretary of the territory and the superintendent, form a committee on estimates to which the superintendent must, not later than December 15 and every two years thereafter, submit his expense budget.

But the answer which Chairman Lewis received in response to his question said tersely:

"THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT FURNISH COPIES INCLUDING SALARIES NOR GRADES OF TEACHERS TO OTHERS THAN THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION."

In other words, what Pope pays his teachers is none of the public's business.

"I think he might have told me instead of snubbing me like that," said Lewis last week. "I think that information of this kind should be furnished by one department head to another, and, as chairman of the board of supervisors of this county, I do, in a way, consider myself as a department head. I did not wish to cause any disturbance or trouble, but so many complaints were made to me that I wanted to see how much basis there was for them. Furthermore, the department is always complaining of lack of funds, so I was wondering where it spent its money. Finally, I believe, that every taxpayer has a right to know where

his money is being spent.

"As a matter of fact, I have made arrangements to get the information in question, and I am going to get it.

"I am certain that some of the complaints that have been made to me are based on facts. I know this for a fact that some of the supervising principals have only primary certificates and still they are supposed to supervise the work of teachers holding grammar grade certificates. In other words, supervising principals are placed as instructors for teachers who, according to the department's own system of grading teachers, are their superiors in knowledge. I also know of several examples of schools where malihinis have been placed in charge, and where these are receiving almost twice as much as did their predecessors, although the schools remain the same in size and general character.

"If the county dared, to run any department in anything like the same manner as that in which the department of public instruction is run, the very people who are continually praising the territorial government in comparison with that of the counties, would be roasting us."

That Supervisor Lewis is quite correct in characterizing the financial policy of the education department as one of reckless and heedless waste is shown from a few facts which are in the possession of the Tribune. Superintendent Pope has, it is true, always been unwilling to give out his list of salaries, particularly those paid the supervising principals. This paper

is nevertheless in a position to give out the salaries paid the prime favorites of Pope. The figures did not come from Pope, but they are absolutely correct nevertheless. The supervising principals and their monthly salaries are as follows:

C. W. Baldwin, Kaahumanu	\$200.00
Edgar Wood, Normal	225.00
S. C. Davis	200.00
Mrs. Nina D. Fraser, Kailani	200.00
Mrs. F. W. Carter, Central Grammar	200.00
I. M. Cox, Kalihiwaena	200.00
Miss J. Deyo, Hilo Union	200.00
Eugene Horner, S. and N. Hilo and Puna	225.00
Miss B. B. Taylor, Kau	175.00
Chas. E. King, N. and S. Kona	225.00
Miss M. Woods, N. and S. Kohala	175.00
J. V. Marciel, Hamakua	175.00
G. S. Raymond, Lahaina and Molokai	200.00
C. E. Copeland, Wailuku	200.00
H. M. Wells, Makawao	225.00
W. W. Taylor, Hana	175.00
H. H. Brodie, Kauai	250.00
Total	\$3,450.00

It might be added that the employment of supervising principals has not done away with the old office of traveling inspector, for which the legislature appropriated \$4800, with \$1500 traveling expenses.

## Tribune Endorses Lewis

The Hilo Tribune has the following to say editorially:  
The Oahu belt road commission

has become a target for spirited and well earned, criticism because of the secrecy with which it spends, or rather wastes, public funds. The attitude of Superintendent of Public Instruction Pope, as shown in his letter to Supervisor Lewis, in impudent defiance of the right of the public to know what becomes of its funds even surpasses the belt road commission.

The heedless waste of the department, the blatant favoritism, and the charge (which is apparently based in some degree on truth) that the superintendent is using the funds in his hands for the purpose of strengthening himself where it will do the most good, all these explain, but, of course do not palliate his conduct.

The reason originally given for the appointment of a few supervising principals was that they would be able to produce uniformity in the instruction given in the various schools under them. In other words, if one man supervised the schools on windward Hawaii, he could see to it that they worked in such uniformity that, for instance, a child from the sixth grade of the Waipio school could move to Kapapala and enter the corresponding grade in the school there without suffering from the change. This reason seemed a good one. But, since consent was given to a trial of the original plan, advantage thereof has been taken by Pope, who has now established a regular college of cardinals. We now have so many supervising principals that the one original sensible reason for the existence of the system, that of producing uniformity,

has been practically nullified.

The last session of the legislature had sufficient confidence in the department of public instruction to allow it much greater latitude in the administration of its finances than it had ever been given in the past. The legislature in so doing yielded to a demand based on the well known fact that it had been impossible to secure with the funds theretofore available, competent teachers, especially for the smaller schools. The absurdity of expecting to secure competent teachers for \$35 or \$40 monthly stipends was demonstrated. Realizing that this condition called for a remedy, the legislature dealt with the department with a liberality and showed in it, a confidence which has been grossly abused. The additional funds allowed the department have been used to but a very small degree in increasing the small salaries. The size of the salaries paid Pope's pampered pet principals a schedule of which appears in the news columns of this issue, shows where the money is going.

The real significance of the system of the department of public instruction in its present grotesquely exaggerated form, is best shown by the totals. The total cost of supervision, including salaries of supervising principals, is \$104,000 for the bi-ennial period. That means \$52,000 a year, or \$1,000 a week—FOR SUPERVISION ALONE.

The total salaries of the six supervising principals on this island alone amount to \$225 a month more than the total of the salaries of all the elective officers of the

Continued on page 7.

# HONOLULU Suburban Investment

For Suburban Real Estate Investments, Honolulu today presents opportunities that cannot be found in any other American city. We first invite your attention to the millions of dollars now being spent on the Panama Canal and Honolulu's Military improvements, giving absolute assurance to Honolulu's promising future to say nothing of her splendid Agricultural and Residential advantages--and second, your attention to

## Palolo Hill and Ocean View

Two magnificent suburban properties located in the Kaimuki district, where home-building activity surpasses anything ever known in the Hawaiian Islands. Kaimuki, on account of its high elevation, healthful climate and beautiful scenery, is recognized as the best residential section of the city, and purchasers today will reap the full benefit of a magnificent residential section in a growing American City.

Our Prices and Terms are Reasonable

**KAIMUKI LAND COMPANY, LIMITED**  
HONOLULU, T. H.

Please Tell them you saw it in THE GARDEN ISLAND when you write out that next order